AMENDMENTS to the CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1- 7 (cancelled).

8. (currently amended) A method for dynamically handling real-time attributes in a static directory server comprising:

providing at least one declaration for an attribute to be handled as a real-time attribute in a directory structure, the value of said real-time attribute being retrievable external of said directory structure and being in a format ~~incompatible~~ not backwards compatible with a directory access protocol request return format;

parsing requests for access to directory attribute values to detect requests for attributes declared as real-time in said attribute declarations;

invoking at least one Real-time Attribute Processor (RTAP) selected from a plurality of attribute processors according to a predetermined selection schema, said invoked RTAP being configured to resolve a real-time value by obtaining an attribute value from a real-time source external to said directory structure, ~~said obtained value being incompatible with a directory access request return format;~~ and by converting said obtained attribute value to be backwards compatible with a directory access protocol request return format; [[and]]

returning to a requester said resolved, converted and ~~access-request-return-format~~ backwards compatible attribute value while suppressing or avoiding storing of the converted attribute value in said directory structure.

9. (original) The method as set forth in Claim 8 wherein said step of selecting and invoking a RTAP selector comprises selecting an RTAP based upon a variation of a name of said requested directory attribute.

10. (original) The method as set forth in Claim 9 wherein said step of selecting an RTAP based upon an attribute name variation comprises selecting an RTAP from the group of a logical device, a device address, a name of a JAVA class, a name of a UNIX shared object, and a name of a dynamically linked library module.

11. (original) The method as set forth in Claim 8 wherein said step of invoking an RTAP comprises invoking an RTAP from the group of a logical device, a device address, a name of a JAVA class, a name of a UNIX shared object, and a name of a dynamically linked library module.

12. (original) The method as set forth in Claim 8 wherein said step of parsing a request comprises parsing a Lightweight Directory Access Protocol requests for attribute values.

13. (currently amended) The method as set forth in Claim 8 wherein said step of returning to a requester an attribute value ~~comprising~~ comprises returning said value according to a Lightweight Directory Access Protocol.

Claims 14 - 19 (cancelled).